

WHIDBEY ISLAND ARTS FORUM

Sponsored by The Langley Arts Commission



MONDAY, JANUARY 29 | 5:30PM
ZECH HALL AT WICA

Whidbey Arts Forum offers a venue for the artistic community to gather to dialog about their work and the impact of the Arts in our lives.

Taking the Next Step – Opportunities Beyond the Shores of Whidbey Island

Sam Calhoun

Executive Director of Arts NW,

is the featured guest speaker. Join us to discuss ideas, share information, and add your voice to the future of the Arts on Whidbey.



Arts Northwest presents the annual NW Booking Conference, one of the region's largest gatherings of artists, their management, and presenters of the performing arts. The Booking Conference offers artists a medium that allows them access to the presenting organizations, and an opportunity to perform in front of the audience most capable of booking them into the western US market.

Open to all artists, arts organizations, and interested community members. Admission is free of charge; light hors d' oeuvres and a no-host bar is available.

For more information or RSVP please email:
Stacie.Burgua@wicaonline.org

Whidbey Arts Forum
Monday, January 29 5:30PM
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, Zech Hall
Hosted by the Langley Arts Commission

The Langley Arts Commission will host the winter 2018 Whidbey Arts Forum on Monday, January 29, at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts. Open to all artists, arts organizations, business leaders, and interested community members, the forum will provide an opportunity for the Arts community to gather in an open format to share ideas and provide feedback to the Arts Commission.

The theme for the winter Whidbey Arts Forum is **“Taking the Next Step—Opportunities Beyond the Shores of Whidbey Island.”** The guest speaker is Sam Calhoun, Executive Director of Arts Northwest and coordinator of the Juan de Fuca Festival of the Arts.

The bi-annual Arts Forum goal is to foster a spirit of cooperation and collaboration among the members and groups in the local arts community. Join us to discuss ideas, share information, and add your voice to the future of the Arts on Whidbey. Light hors d' oeuvres will be served and a no-host bar will be available.

For more information and/or RSVP:
Stacie Burgua 360/221.8265 stacie.burgua@wicaonline.org

Whidbey Arts Forum, January ²⁹~~18~~, 2018

Welcome and short history: Stacie

Introduction of LAC Chair Diane Divelbess

- Intro of LAC members and associated City staff (Langley Mayor Tim Callison; City Planner, Brigid Reynolds; Assistant Planner Kelsey Loch)

- Whidbey Arts Forum goals:
 - provide an opportunity for artists and arts-related organizations, businesses, and interested parties to talk about their work, concerns and issues
 - create a space that allows constituents to consider the Arts as a whole (the bigger picture) and the impact on our community
 - allow opportunity to work together and create ideas to utilize the Arts to improve the quality of life in our community, as well as enhance economic vitality
 - offer educational opportunities related to the Arts to improve skills and create “spark” (workshops, guest speakers, etc.)
 - inform and support the efforts of the Langley Arts Commission and the City of Langley

- LAC updates and announcements

Guest Speaker introduction: Stacie

Open floor discussion: Diane

- Attendees introduce themselves
- Q&A and discussion
 - What is important to constituents?
 - Announcements

Adjourn

Whidbey Island Arts Forum
Sponsored by the Langley Arts Commission
January 29, 2018
5:30 PM, Zech Hall at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts

Minutes of the Forum

5:30 PM – Meet and Greet

6:30 – 7:00 PM – Program

Call to Order – Diane Divelbiss, Chair, Langley Arts Commission

Host – Stacie Burgua, Executive Director, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA)

Featured Speaker – Sam Calhoun, Executive Director of Arts Northwest

Topic – “Taking the Next Step: Opportunities Beyond the Shores of Whidbey Island

Stacie Burgua provided a brief history of the Whidbey Arts Forum. The first forum was held January 2017. The forum is biannual, occurring twice a year. The ~~first~~ ^{second} forum focused on shared studio space. This forum is targeted more toward performing artists.

Featured speaker Sam Calhoun was introduced and she provided information concerning the annual Northwest Booking Conference, to be held this year from October 8-11 in Eugene, Oregon at the Eugene Hilton and the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

The Booking Conference provides access for Northwest regional performing artists and their agents and management to presenting organizations (venues) and an opportunity to perform before an audience capable of booking them into the western U.S. market.

Calhoun described the conference atmosphere as friendly and non-competitive, offering professional development workshops and regularly surveying members and attendees to ensure a relevant program.

The conference provides performing artists with three ways to showcase themselves: Juried performances, “after hours” performances and “5-minute” performances. WICA uses this conference to assist in booking its performers. There is an exhibition hall, opportunities for networking and “block booking.”

Block booking allows art venues from smaller communities to share performer touring costs with larger venues, providing access to performing artists that otherwise would be too expensive.

Last year the conference had 167 applications. Each submittal is reviewed for two minutes by a panel meeting in Seattle. There are 250-300 conference attendees. Deadline for juried showcase applications is April 16, 2018.

According to Calhoun, the annual conference is good for young performers because it is nurturing and mentoring programs are also available. There are workshops to help artists learn about the business side of touring.

More information about the Northwest Booking Conference and about Arts Northwest is available at the Arts Northwest website: www.artsnw.org

A question-and-answer followed Calhoun's presentation. There were self-introductions of art forum attendees and a more casual discussion. There were coffee and refreshments supplied by WICA and a no-host bar. Sign-in sheets were collected for future use.

*Minutes Submitted by Joann Quintana,
Secretary, LAC*